

Join the Fun at Convention '08!

It's two days filled with FREE professional development workshops, education exhibits, a new, expanded health fair and great opportunities to network with educators from across the state.

Convention 2008 is your chance to really connect with MSTA and your education colleagues from across the state. Whether you're a delegate planning to attend the Representative Assembly, or a member eager to take advantage of the more than 50 relevant workshops (handpicked for Maryland educators), the weekend has plenty to offer you.

Here's more of what you'll find at the convention:

- Guest appearance by Gov. Martin O'Malley (*Friday*)
- Keynote address from new NEA president Dennis Van Roekel (*Friday*)
- More than 50 FREE! professional development workshops!
- A huge exhibit area with more than 100 education-related vendors
- The Apple-A-Day Health Fair with expanded offerings, including "Health Talks" scheduled throughout the day Friday and Saturday. Sponsored by the Women's Concerns Committee.

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- The new Camp MSTA, professional childcare for ages 12 months-12 years. Available to delegates and their families. Fee.



- The MSTA Member Trade Show featuring the special skills, talents and entrepreneurial spirit of your colleagues.
- For delegates: The annual President's Reception and MSTA Night at Seacrets, O.C.'s hottest nightclub.

For additional information and a list of workshops, go to www.mstanea.org and click on the Convention '08 icon.

Re-Ignite!

Have you lost your Spark? Do you want to learn more about your Association and how it can help you in both your professional and personal life? Are you dreaming about retirement but don't have any idea how to get there? Are you a Howard County educator (teachers and paraeducators) with between nine and nineteen years of experience?

If you answered yes to these questions, we invite you to join us at HCEA's first Re-Ignite event, geared toward mid-career educators. It will be held Saturday, November 8 from 8:30 AM – 4PM at the Faulkner Ridge Center. To register contact Janet Bloom at HCEA, 410-997-3440. Space is limited, so call now!!!

Obama on NCLB

"The fact is, *No Child Left Behind* has done more to stigmatize and demoralize our students and teachers in struggling schools than it has to marshal the talent and the determination and the resources to turn them around. That's what's wrong with *No Child Left Behind*, and that's what we must change in a fundamental way." (Barack Obama, Manchester, NH, 11/22/07)

Nearly 10,000 delegates to the July NEA Representative Assembly officially endorsed Barack Obama for president. "We need a president who understands that the strength of our country, the vitality of our economy and the health of our democracy depend on quality public schools," said NEA past president Reg Weaver.

"Senator Obama gets it," added new NEA President Dennis Van Roekel, about Obama's education plans. "He knows that reform cannot take place overnight or by using quick fixes. Obama wants to invest in comprehensive strategies, both immediate and long-term, which will pay dividends for our children, our economy and our country."

"I want to lead a new era of mutual responsibility in education – one where we all come together – parents and educators, the NEA and leaders in Washington, citizens all across America; united for the sake of our children's success," Obama told the NEA delegates. "Bringing about that future begins with fixing the broken promises of *No Child Left Behind*."

The View from Here

by Ann De Lacy, HCEA President

According to the late Senator Paul Wellstone, “There are three critical ingredients to democratic renewal and progressive change in America: good public policy, grassroots organizing, and electoral politics.” These ingredients are crucial to the success of HCEA.

The election on November 4, 2008 will determine the course of public education and labor unions at the local, state and national levels for years to come. The future of the implementation of “No Child Left Behind,” pay based on test scores, private school vouchers, the expansion of Early Childhood Education, public education funding, Pension System funding, the protection of education employees to organize, merit pay, “due process,” and a host of other issues that impact public education and public education employees all hang in the balance.

Adequate funding for public education is good public policy. Therefore, we must organize and support those candidates, irrespective of political party, who support the issues that are good for us and for the children we serve.



Support the Slots Referendum (Question 2)

Atholton Elementary Rep Nina Martin and a group of fellow MSTA members said it best. “Revenues and resources are dwindling; the economy is in a tailspin; our children’s future hangs in the balance. The cuts we face will take a long time to heal; ‘tough times call for tough choices.’” Without slots we risk the threat of a \$48 million transfer of Howard County’s portion of the Maryland State Teacher Retirement System from the state to Howard County. This is a risk we cannot afford to take.

NEA Recommendation for President of the United States - Barack Obama

Issue	Barack Obama (D)	John McCain (R)
Pay Teachers Based on Student Test Scores, Pay Teachers Based on Other Factors	Opposes traditional pay for test scores, but supports some forms of enhanced compensation.	Supports pay for test scores
Private School Vouchers	Opposes	Supports
Change NCLB’s Use of a Single Standardized Test to Measure Student Success	Supports	No public information found
Improve Quality of Tests	Supports	Supports tests changes for Students with disabilities and English Language Learners
Reduce Class Size	Supports	Opposes
Expand Early Childhood Education	Supports	No public information found
Pay Teachers a Starting Salary and Education Salary of \$40,000 and Education Support Professionals a Living Wage	Supports	No public information found
Increase Student Aid for College (Pell Grants)	Supports	Opposes
Privatize Social Security	Opposes	Partially Supports
Protect Education Employee Rights to Organize (EFCA)	Supports	Opposes

HCEA Board of Education Recommendations:

Allen Dyer

Janet Siddiqui

Ellen Flynn Giles



BOE Candidate Comparison

Issue	Dyer	Siddiqui	Giles	Grater
Merit Pay	Same pay/ additional incentive if in difficult school	No merit pay	No merit pay	Reward system for good teachers
Fund Negotiated Agreement	Honor agreement	Honor agreement	Honor agreement	Might break negotiated agreement
Top Priorities	Staff pay; smaller class sizes	Staff pay, maintain programs	Staff pay, safe facilities	Sufficient number of teachers, facilities
Number of Assessments	Reduce assessments	Balance between teaching & assessing	Test prep alone should not define scope of instruction	Number seems fair and reasonable
Support/ Oppose Vouchers	Strongly oppose	Oppose vouchers	Oppose	Do not support concept
Renewal of NCLB	If heavily amended	If amended	If amended	Not sure

Butler: Home schools her child; "highly supports vouchers"

Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Elections

There will be three vacancies on the Howard County Board of Education in November and HCEA has endorsed three candidates that will hopefully fill these vacancies. These elected officials are the persons responsible for negotiating with HCEA for your salary and working conditions as well as setting policy that affects your day to day work as an employee of HCPSS. The three HCEA - endorsed candidates are incumbents Janet Siddiqui and Ellen Flynn Giles along with newcomer Allen Dyer.

We need volunteers to assist in electing these candidates!

If you would like to volunteer to hand out HCEA material on election day for an hour or two on behalf of any or all of these candidates or put up a yard sign, **please complete the form below and send back to the HCEA office via PONY or email your intent to: www.dcollins@mstanea.org**

Name: _____ School: _____ Tele.# _____

I would like to:

_____ Hand out the HCEA endorsed ballot on election day

_____ Work specifically for: _____ Siddiqui _____ Giles _____ Dyer

_____ Put up a yard sign for: _____ Siddiqui _____ Giles _____ Dyer

Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

Yom Kippur

Thursday, October 9
Schools Closed

National Board Certification

Informational Meeting
Thursday, October 16
4:30PM– 5:30PM
Faulkner Ridge Center

MSTA Representative Assembly & Convention Workshops

Friday, October 17 &
Saturday, October 18
Ocean City Convention Center
www.mstanea.org

Seminar on Paying for College

Wednesday, October 22
4:15PM – 5:50PM

HCEA Night at Toby's Dinner Theater

Wednesday, October 22

Retirement Planning Seminar

Wednesday, October 29
4:30PM – 6PM
Homewood School

Last Day to Sign Up for ESP Sick Leave Bank

Friday, October 31

General Election Day

Tuesday, November 4
Schools Closed

Re-Ignite

Saturday, November 9
8:30AM – 4PM
Faulkner Ridge

Legislative Breakfast

Saturday, November 15
Location TBD

HCEA Marketplace

For Rent

Lovely one bedroom garage apartment available for rent on small farm. Located in Western Howard County near Lisbon and Glenwood. Separate entrance. Includes washer/dryer, one stall garage and utilities. Nicely kept. Bicycling and horse country. No pets. \$825/mo. Call Diann or Bob @ 410-489-4401 evenings.

For Sale

Massanutten Time Share for SALE! Deeded timeshare property. Two Red Weeks for the price of one at the Beautiful Massanutten Shenandoah Villas. (Save on GAS) Beautiful vacation resort less than 2 hours away. Complete unit sleeps ten OR use the lockout and own two week units. One sleeps four and the other sleeps six. Largest indoor water park as well as a renown ski resort area with a five star restaurant. Valued at \$18,900 asking \$11,000. Deed comes with the purchase as well as a year registration with RCI and the first year maintenance fee. Contact Leirdre' @ 410- 489-7819.

Longaberger!!

With the holidays approaching it is the perfect time to have a party and earn rewards for yourself or for holiday gifts! To find out how to purchase our baskets and home décor products, host a home show, have a fundraising event for your school or organization or become part of the growing Longaberger family get in touch with me, Melissa Ronnenberg, at 410-719-2214 or melisron1@comcast.net.

General Services

Handyman Services:

To-do-list growing bigger? No time to complete all those little jobs around the home? Contact JM Frederick, LLC for handyman services. MHIC Licensed #97185, #125996. Insured, and workers comp. Residential and commercial services available. Servicing Howard and nearby counties. Emergency services as available. Call 410-750-7473 or e-mail jm.frederick.llc@gmail.com.

Portraits:

With the holidays around the corner you might want to think about having a charcoal or oil portrait done as a gift. Prices are reasonable. Visit Shawn's website at shawn-costello.com and click on Portraits, or for more information call 410-489-0477 or e-mail shawn_costello@hcpss.org.

Musicians: Are you looking for a professional chamber music group for your special occasion? The Antares Musicians have over a century of combined experience performing at weddings, dinner parties, corporate events, etc. To find out more information or to request a free CD, please go to www.AntaresMusicians.com or call Tammy Sutton at 410-719-NOTE.

Pet Portraits:

Would you like a custom one-of-a-kind portrait of your pet? Would you like the perfect gift for the pet-lover in your family? Why not have your favorite pet's image transformed into an extraordinary work of art that you can display in your home? In just 3 weeks I can create a one-of-a-kind pet portrait from just a few photos and some insight from you about your pet's unique personality. If you're interested, please go to www.paw-portraits.com, e-mail rick@paw-portraits.com or call Rick Ragan at 412-973-9866

Employment

Tutorrific! Tutor in homes throughout Howard County. A great way to make extra money! Please send an email or your resume to Deborah Peled Markowitz at tutorrific@comcast.net.

*To advertise in HCEA Marketplace visit the Publications page on the HCEA website at www.hceanea.org or e-mail ad to editor_marketplace@hceanea.org. Deadline for next issue: **Thursday, October 16.***

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